

than 730,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District in congratulating and honoring these hardworking young women who have persevered, sacrificed, and achieved the pinnacle of success in basketball—the Georgia AAAA State Championship title.

HONORING MR. RAFAEL B. CRUZ
ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2019

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize my constituent, Mr. Rafael B. Cruz for his 80th birthday on March 22nd. A man of strong faith and uncompromising willpower, Rafael embodies the meaning of persistence, and serves as a leading example of what the American Dream can look like with enough hard work and an unwavering belief in the prospect of liberty.

Born in Cuba under the oppressive Batista regime, Rafael experienced assault and imprisonment as a teenager for taking an active stance against the injustices he witnessed. In search of a better life, he left his home at the age of eighteen to pursue a degree in higher education, and arrived in Austin, Texas where he studied Mathematics and Chemical Engineering. While in school, he worked seven days a week for fifty cents an hour until he obtained his degree in 1961. In addition to his obligations as a student, Rafael maintained strong ties with his community in Cuba and advocated against the abuses of the newly empowered Castro forces.

A family man by the early 1960s, Rafael balanced his new career in the energy industry with raising two daughters and his son, current Texas Senator, TED CRUZ. Rafael moved to Houston with his family to work and found a lasting home in the state Texas. Today, he resides in my district, in the City of Carrollton, where he is a pastor, a supportive father and grandfather, and an exemplary member of our community.

Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the inspiring life story of Rafael Cruz, who has fought for freedom, family and faith for all of his life, and whose contributions to our country will continue to make a mark on the character of our American spirit. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in wishing a very happy 80th birthday to Mr. Rafael Cruz.

CONGRATULATING MR. MATTHEW
ANTHONY OF CARBON COUNTY

HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2019

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and congratulate Mr. Matthew Anthony of Palmerton, Pennsylvania. Matthew proudly represented Carbon County at the North American Special Olympics in Las Vegas, Nevada, and was named the Special Olympics North American Unified Gold Medalist in bowling.

Matthew competes with his father, Christopher, and they are the first Special Olympics unified team from Carbon County, as well as the first bowling team from our area to make it to the national competition.

Matthew has been actively involved with the Special Olympics since the Carbon County delegation was established fourteen years ago and has competed in a variety of different sports in addition to bowling, including floor hockey, track and field and bocce. Matthew is a strong competitor and a positive voice for all members of the vibrant Special Olympics community and the constituents of Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District.

In his free time, Matthew works at his family business in Palmerton, plays video games, and enjoys restoring his 1987 Oldsmobile Custom Cruiser Wood Panel Station Wagon. Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating Matthew for his many achievements and outstanding legacy of continued sportsmanship and wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
REUEL WALTERS

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2019

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize World War II veteran Reuel Walters for his service to the United States of America.

Reuel was born at home in Livingston, Texas on January 16, 1925. A midwife attended to his mother. One of six children, at the age of eighteen, Reuel was drafted and courageously answered the call to serve and defend his country in the United States Army. Reuel completed his basic training in San Antonio, Texas and deployed as a radio control repairman.

From 1941 to 1945, Reuel served in the Solomon Islands, Bougainville Island, Sipan Island and Guam. He saw the Enola Gay before it dropped the bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. Reuel was in Guam when he heard the announcement over a loudspeaker that the war had ended.

After his time in the service, Reuel worked as a lineman for thirty-six years at Houston Line & Power. In 1985, he retired and moved to Livingston, Texas.

Madam Speaker, it is because of the sacrifices made by men and women like Reuel Walters that we are able to enjoy the freedoms that we hold so dear. Let us not forget this great generation. We thank Reuel for the contributions he has made to preserve our liberty.

IN HONOR OF EDWARD STEVER'S
100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2019

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Edward Stever and wish him a very happy 100th birthday.

The attack on Pearl Harbor was an event that not only shaped the course of our country but the lives of many Americans, including Mr. Stever. After Pearl Harbor was attacked he was one of the many Americans who felt compelled to fight against the Japanese. He then joined the Army Air Corps where he served until 1946. During his career he completed countless dangerous, yet vital, missions delivering bombs and fuel from India to China. He showed endless bravery and courage in his pursuit to serve our country halfway across the world.

After completing active duty, Mr. Stever returned to his wife and two children and worked for IBM in Binghamton, New York until he was transferred to Charlotte, North Carolina. In 2007, he moved to Fayetteville and unfortunately lost his wife after 69 years of marriage. Despite his loss he still felt compelled to serve our country and he has been volunteering at the U.S. Army Airborne and Special Operations Museum, since 2011. In fact, he has dedicated over 2,400 hours to the Museum. I know I speak for everyone when I say we are so thankful for him and all of his service to our country and community.

The U.S. Army Airborne and Special Operations Museum had a goal of collecting 100 birthday cards for Mr. Stever's birthday. I am honored to play a small part in recognizing him and all he has accomplished over the last 100 years.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in thanking Mr. Edward Stever for his service and wishing him a Happy 100th birthday.

THANKING CHIEF BILL JOHN
BAKER

HON. KEVIN HERN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2019

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Chief Bill John Baker for his many years of service to the Cherokee people and to his community. Chief Baker's service to the Cherokee Nation and the state of Oklahoma has touched the lives of many, whether acting in the capacity of Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, as a Cherokee Tribal Councilor, as PTA President, as President of the Tahlequah Chamber of Commerce, or as the coach of local youth sports teams.

Personally, my wife Tammy and I can attest to Chief Bill John Baker's dedication to community by our mutual involvement in the Ronald McDonald House Charities. When we first moved to Muskogee Oklahoma, Tammy called Chief Baker to bring his attention to the Cherokee Nation women's use of the Ronald McDonald House—roughly 1/3rd of the House's inhabitants are Cherokee citizens. Without hesitation, Chief Baker stepped up to the plate and asked—how much money does Ronald McDonald House need?

Chief Baker's accomplishments have been heralded by his colleagues and neighbors alike. The town of Okay is grateful for the Veterans Monument project that Chief Baker spearheaded. People recall the countless times that he expedited housing assistance for disabled and elderly Cherokee citizens. Chief Baker's friends, neighbors, and those who